

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2008

Independence Village

PWSID 0080019

July, 2009

We're pleased to provide you with this year's Annual Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water quality and services we have delivered to you over the past year. Our goal is and always has been, to provide to you a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source is from one well which is located adjacent to our pump house. The depth of this well and the confined aquifer from which it draws is unknown at the present time.

A source water assessment plan has been completed for Charles County. This report is available from Charles County Government, the Charles County Public Library, or Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

This report shows our water quality and what it means.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water, please contact Sylvester Ball at 301-672-8537. We want our residents to be informed about their water. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled community meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of most months at one of our residences on a rotating basis. You will be notified of the time and place for these meetings.

Independence Village routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2008. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk.

In this table you will find terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) - picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants						
Copper (Distribution) (2005)	N	0.11	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (Distribution) (2005)	Y	50	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2006)	N	< 0.20	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Arsenic (2006)	N	< 5.0	ppb	N/A	10	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	< 0.05	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Volatile Organic Contaminants						
TTHM (Distribution) [Total trihalomethanes]	N	0.59	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Unregulated Contaminants						
Chloroform (2004)	N	7.4	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Bromodichloromethane (2004)	N	1.3	ppb	N/A	N/A	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Sodium (2006)	N	12.0	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits

Note: Test results are for year 2008 unless otherwise noted. All contaminants do not require annual testing.

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. Our most recent test results for lead and copper which were completed in 2005 indicate that lead exceeded the action level (AL) for this contaminant. Therefore we are in violation for this contaminant. During 2009 we will be doing additional testing and may be required to install some type of treatment to correct this condition. We are also required to distribute lead public education notices annually until this condition is corrected. You should soon be receiving this.

"If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Independence Village is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

Our system received a reporting violation for late reporting of results for our nitrate monitoring for 2008. This is an annual test which was completed in November but results were not received by MDE until after the required due date of January 10, 2009. Duration of the violation was from January 1st thru December 31st, 2008. Our system returned to compliance after MDE received the test results in February. This did not pose any adverse health risks to our residents as the detection level for nitrate has always been well below the established MCL for this contaminant as can be seen from results in the preceding table.

Our system also received a reporting violation for failure to submit a copy of this Annual Water Quality Report to MDE by the required due date of July 1st.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Please call Sylvester or Eleanor Whalen if you have questions about this report or the quality of your drinking water.